GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4213
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2001
ACTION PLAN TO CHECK PROSTITUTION
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding prostitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan formulated by the Government to check prostitution in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a)to(c): Though there are a number of studies and reports on commercial sexual exploitation of women and children, there are no reliable estimates of the extent and magnitude of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation in India. The Government has not conducted any survey recently.

The Government of India has formulated a Plan of Action to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children through strategies that cover prevention, legislation and law enforcement, provision of basic services to the victims of prostitution, rescue and rehabilitation, awareness generation and social mobilization. The Central Ministries and State Governments would plan the interventions required and operationalise them. In June 1998, the Government also drafted a SAARC Regional Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. This draft convention seeks to take measures to prevent cross-border trafficking through proper international governmental coordination as well as harmonizing of various laws and legal provisions relating to trafficking and rehabilitation of rescued victims.

Apart from ensuring stricter enforcement of the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, the Government is attempting to bring about an overall improvement in the status of women and children especially the girl child through better education, health care, economic empowerment of women. Schemes for employment and income generation like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Setting-up of employment-cum income generating Units for Women (NORAD), Socio-Economic Programme (SEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), Swaran Jayanti Rozgar Yojana (SJRY) etc. are implemented especially in high supply areas of victims of prostitution and for rehabilitation of rescued victims of prostitution. Efforts are also made through print media and electronic media to project a positive image of women in society and to bring about changes in societal attitudes towards women and the girl child.